

Senate Resolution 867

By: Senators Hill of the 4th, Kemp of the 46th, Stephens of the 27th and Rogers of the 21st

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Deputy Patrick Neal on winning the Peace Officer of the Year Award for
2 Valor; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Cherokee County Sheriff's Office Deputy Patrick Neal demonstrates his courage
4 and commitment to duty each and every day that he is on the job, but his actions on August
5 10, 2004, truly show what an extraordinary hero he really is; and

6 WHEREAS, on that Tuesday afternoon, Deputy Neal arrived at a residence in Woodstock
7 to deliver felony warrants to a man wanted for first degree forgery and probation violations;
8 this suspect was also wanted by Cobb County police on charges of aggravated stalking of his
9 ex-wife; and

10 WHEREAS, while waiting for back-up to arrive, Deputy Neal saw the suspect at the
11 passenger side of a truck in the home's driveway and, believing the suspect was about to flee
12 on foot, maneuvered his patrol car in front of the truck; and

13 WHEREAS, unable to wait for back-up, Deputy Neal approached the man and commanded
14 the suspect to come to him; instead, the suspect reached into the truck to arm himself with
15 a .45 caliber semiautomatic pistol; and

16 WHEREAS, when Deputy Neal drew his own weapon, the suspect shot him in the face,
17 knocking him to the ground and destroying his eyeglasses; instead of backing down,
18 however, this brave officer managed to return fire and get to his feet to go to cover; and

19 WHEREAS, within one minute, some 22 rounds were exchanged, with only 15 feet
20 separating the two men; and

1 WHEREAS, besides his facial wound, Deputy Neal received three shots to the chest, all of
2 which were fortunately stopped by his ballistic vest, and suffered a wound to his upper leg,
3 with the round exiting his calf and shattering his lower leg; despite these serious injuries, he
4 continued to hold his ground, ultimately fatally wounding the suspect; and

5 WHEREAS, in honor of his incredible performance under fire and uncommon bravery,
6 Deputy Neal has been awarded the Peace Officer of the Year Award for Valor by the Peace
7 Officers Association of Georgia; and

8 WHEREAS, all Georgians owe a tremendous debt of gratitude for the courageous and noble
9 service of this outstanding officer.

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
11 join in commending Deputy Patrick Neal on being awarded the Peace Officer of the Year
12 Award for Valor and thank him for his heroic service to the people of Georgia.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
14 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Deputy Patrick Neal.